

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Inventor: | Mitsuhiro Kurano | Examiner: | Daniel L. Robinson |
| Ser. No.: | 10/597,953 | Art Group: | 3742 |
| Filed: | 14 August 2006 | Conf. No.: | 8391 |
| Title: | DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING THE SAME | | |
| Date: | 15 April 2010 | | |

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

In response to the Office Action transmitted on 15 October 2009, please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION - none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS – are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS - none.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS begin on page 5.